How is the immune systems of the residents being supported?

We continue to place an emphasis on outside recreation from before the crisis. We are providing structured recreation activities and feed our youth meals that have been designed by a dietician to ensure appropriate nutrition for adolescents. In addition, we ensure each youth is afforded the opportunity for the appropriate numbers of hours of uninterrupted sleep. Exercise, proper nutrition and adequate sleep are essential in supporting the immune system.

Will there be mandated vaccinations? What if a resident exerts his constitutional rights and refuses a vaccination?

DJJ does not require vaccinations other than those required by schools. Required vaccinations are never given over objection. As with the school vaccinations, we would follow the appropriate federal guidelines for both administration requirements and exemptions.

Are masks mandatory? What about CO2 toxicity?

For now, cloth masks are mandatory when youth are out of their rooms. The cloth masks are not thick enough to pose a hazard for CO2 toxicity. Youth are required to wear surgical masks for medical appointments. CO2 toxicity would not be a risk in a surgical mask unless a youth had restrictive lung disease, COPD, or was engaging in intense, prolonged physical exercise. If a youth had a condition that put them at risk, one of our medical providers would develop a patient-specific protocol for them. Currently, we do not have a youth that requires such a protocol.

My child has type 1 diabetes. How are you all keeping children with chronic health conditions safe?

At the beginning of the outbreak, the Bon Air medical department started keeping an additional 30-day supply of medication of specific types on hand, to include insulin, in case there was a supply chain disruption. All residents who have chronic illness have been assessed by a medical provider to determine if their condition places them at high risk. Any residents identified as high risk would have an individual protection plan generated by a medical provider specific to their condition. Currently, Bon Air does not have any youth that are medically considered high risk.

Is COVID-19 on my child's unit?

All housing units at Bon Air are currently COVID-19 free. If there is a positive case on a unit, that resident will be moved to the central infirmary or a medical isolation unit until they are well enough to return to the unit without posing a threat to others.

What happens if COVID-19 comes to a unit?

All cases of COVID-19 will be managed in accordance with CDC and VDH guidelines and facility protocols. Residents who become infected will be moved to the central infirmary or a medical isolation for treatment and kept there until they are no longer symptomatic or at risk of spreading the illness to others. The residents who have close contact with an infected peer on their unit will quarantine to mitigate any additional spread.

Is there any chance my child will be released early?

All youth indeterminately committed to the department has been reviewed for release. Release decisions have been made for those determined to be appropriate for release.

For the kids who are able to be released early, how can we be sure they will be appropriately supervised since a lot of probation offices are closed or not doing face to face meetings?

Parole/Probation Officers are a part of each resident's treatment team. We will work with them to have measures in place to provide supervision once the resident is released. Supervision may look different during this crisis; however, the CSU shall not accept parole supervision for a youth that cannot be appropriately supervised.

How will my questions be answered by phone?

You may contact your child's counselor, community coordinator or Bon Air's superintendent if you have additional questions.

What will be done to protect residents who are getting haircuts?

Out of an abundance of caution, haircuts are not being offered at this time. However, proper hair hygiene is required.

What are the plans being discussed for reopening visitation?

The Department and Bon Air administration are working diligently to develop a plan to resume visitation. Details will be shared with families and natural supports when a decision is reached.

How and when can we take part in video chats with our child?

Bon Air is working on expanding opportunities for video conferencing. Currently, counselors do not have the ability to conduct video conferences from their office computers. In very limited cases, FaceTime and other video chat services have been offered. Those offerings have been minimal due to the limited availability of state cell phone on campus and poor cellular connectivity. As more information is available, we will share details with families and natural supports.

Can residents make arrangements to FaceTime with their children?

You may contact your child's counselor or community coordinator to inquire.

Can you assure my child's safety?

We are doing everything we can to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in the facility. DJJ Health Services is currently exceeding the community standard of care for COVID-19. We have nurses on campus 24 hours a day. They check residents' temperatures twice a day for early identification of the virus. We test all residents with symptoms or a temperature above 99 degrees. Our medical providers check in with COVID-19 patients daily regardless of their level

of symptoms. Our staff are medical professionals who are committed to their chosen occupation and the patients they have chosen to work with. Nationwide and at our facilities, young people infected with the virus tend to do quite well.

Are mental health services being provided to residents campus-wide?

Yes. Mental health staff were on campus on a rotating basis throughout the duration of quarantine. Many staff, as circumstances allowed, were able to participate in telehealth sessions with residents. Since the quarantine ended, Bon Air has resumed routine mental health care and services. Each residents has access to counselors and mental health staff for individual and/or group treatment service needs. Residents receive specific treatment based on their treatment plans.